

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5 are now pending in this Application. Claims 4 and 6-24 are canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 4.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,660,673 to Miyoshi (hereinafter referred to as "Miyoshi"). Claims 1, 5, 8, 11, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,210,593 to Ohkuni et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Ohkuni"). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Miyoshi or Ohkuni. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ohkuni. The Examiner stated that claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 4. Claims 2-3 and 5 are dependent on claim 1. For at least these reasons, claims 1-3 and 5 are allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests early Notice of Allowance from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-0388 (Order No. LAM1P111).

Respectfully submitted,
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